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From: Shore, Berry
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Subject: POFA/PFOS - Hoosick Clips

Sen. Gillibrand visiting Hoosick Falls for round table discussion on PFOA

By Joe Gullo

Published: July 5, 2016, 2:26 pm

New 10 ABC - Albany

HOOSICK AND PETERSBURGH, N.Y. (NEWS10) – U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand is inviting Hoosick and Petersburg residents to a round table discussion to discuss the PFOA contamination crisis.

According to a press release, the Hoosick Central School District and Superintendent Kenneth Facin are hosting the meeting.

The meeting is open to the public.

During the meeting, Senator Gillibrand will hear from citizens of Hoosick Falls and Petersburg regarding how the PFOA contamination has personally affected their lives.

The meeting will be held on Friday, July 8 at 2:30 p.m. at the Hoosick Falls Central School: High School Auditorium

Kirsten Gillibrand to attend Hoosick Falls meeting

By Matthew Hamilton

July 5, 2016 at 1:43 PM

Albany Times Union

U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand will be one of the most high-profile elected officials to have visited the water-contamination-ravaged Hoosick Falls area when she attends a public meeting there on Friday.

Gillibrand will take part in a roundtable-style discussion with residents of Hoosick and Petersburg at 2:30 p.m. Friday at the Hoosick Falls High School auditorium at 21187 Route 22 in Hoosick Falls, the school district said on Tuesday. The meeting will be open to the public.

A water crisis and an alleged cover-up in Hoosick Falls: CAFE crashes the New York statehouse: For at least 18 months, local residents drank poisoned water with their government's knowledge

By Blake Zeff, Matt Binder, Elias Isquith and Edward Ludvigsen,

Tuesday, Jul 5, 2016 05:00 AM EDT

Salon.com

For at least 18 months, the people of Hoosick Falls, New York, drank poisoned water — despite their government knowing it contained high levels of the chemical “PFOA.” The residents of this small town still don’t know why — and many of them are still fighting for answers.

Here at CAFE, we’ve always considered “not letting people get poisoned” to be super high on the list of things government is supposed to do; so we were also pretty interested to see what the government had to say to these people.

And that’s why we hit the road to talk to folks in Hoosick Falls and politicians in the State Capitol, and find out WTF happened and why there are still so many unanswered questions:

Filtering water fears in Hoosick Falls demands an independent probe

EDITORIALS

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

Tuesday, July 5, 2016, 4:00 AM

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

The 3,500 residents of upstate Hoosick Falls face the risk of illness because their water supply has been poisoned with a toxin used in manufacturing Teflon.

Known as PFOA, the chemical is believed to have seeped over a period of years into the groundwater from a manufacturing plant. Blood test results are informing a growing number of Hoosick Fallers that their bodies contain elevated levels of the substance.

With the New York Health Department and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency wrangling over who should have done what when, the state Assembly this spring shirked the responsibility of conducting oversight hearings. U.S. Sens. Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand then stepped into the breach by calling for a federal review.

New Yorkers, most urgently those living in the Rensselaer County village 33 miles northeast of Albany, must have a full, independent investigation, with the emphasis on independent given the potential for embarrassment to the Cuomo administration.

Critical to an inquiry, but not the whole of it, will be why more than a year passed between initial private testing that revealed potential hazards in 2014 and New York's Jan. 2016 commitment to designate the village as a Superfund site, freeing up funds to purify the water supply.

After the village tested the water and confirmed elevated PFOA, the state health agency advised residents in Jan. 2015 that the finding "does not constitute an immediate health hazard."

Following further testing by the state in July 2015, the department informed residents: "Health effects are not expected to occur from normal use of the water" — even as it then worked with the polluter on clean-up plans and promoted the availability of free bottled water.

Additionally demanding investigation: Somersaulting by the federal EPA.

The agency appeared to be a-OK with the state's go-it-slow response until regional administrator Judith Enck, a Rensselaer resident, learned of the pollution in 2015 and issued an unusual don't-drink-the-water advisory. She then scolded state and village officials for failing to immediately promote the warning.

Residents say they wish they'd known risks sooner. State officials contend they proceeded with proper care, using their best understanding of science, to secure drinking water without inciting panic.

As of May, the EPA says that PFOA is dangerous to humans at even lower levels than previously held — setting the bar higher for New York's future responses to water poisoning elsewhere.

In promising legislative hearings and then bailing on them, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie blew an opportunity to play an important role in forging a national understanding of the peril presented by PFOA. Now, Schumer and Gillibrand must apply federal power to get the job done.

Hoosick Falls Water Use Advisory in Effect

By Web Staff

Tuesday, July 5, 2016 at 07:11 PM EDT

Time Warner Cable News

Village leaders in Hoosick Falls are asking residents to limit non-essential use of public water after an accident at the water treatment plant.

The request came from Mayor David Borge's office Tuesday afternoon, after he says workers at the plant unintentionally cut off the electricity to part of the facility. That caused the plant to not be able to take water from municipal wells.

Residents do still have access in their homes to the water that has already been treated and stored in tanks at the plant. But it is a limited supply, and people are asked not to water lawns or fill up their swimming pools for now.

Mayor Borge says electricians are working on the issue, and TWC News will pass along an update when it's resolved.

Electric supply accidentally cut to Hoosick Falls water treatment plant

WNYT Staff

Created: 07/05/2016 6:56 PM

News Channel 13 - NBC

HOOSICK FALLS - There's more water woes in Hoosick Falls, where residents are being asked to limit their water use.

The mayor says contractors accidentally cut the electrical supply to the village's water treatment plant.

That means that the plant can't pump water from its supply wells.

Treated water that's already in storage, will continue to flow to homes, but there is a limited supply.

So the village is asking residents not to water lawns or fill pools until the problem is fixed.